

# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## Maui's Volunteer Newsletter



### Ola Ka Honua 2014

By Flo Bahr



Photo by Ka`au Abraham.

Sanctuary volunteer, Susan Langman, helps a toddler with the turtle puzzle.

The Maui Nui Botanical Gardens held an exciting event on July 12 at which we participated with an outreach table. There were free cultural activities for the entire family to enjoy. Participants could learn and try their hand at lei making, Kapa making, Kaula (rope) making, Kamani nut whistle making with o`eo`e (cordage), and Makahiki games which included spear throwing. There was plenty of ono food and drinks for sale and music and dancing to enjoy throughout the day. There were also many native Hawaiian plants for sale.

We were one of about 20 organizations that shared information. We also had puzzles and a new question board with a variety of questions about the marine environment. Answer a question and win a temporary tattoo! It was a busy day with lots of visitors to our outreach table. Our volunteers had time to cruise around and see the other activities, eat and make their purchases. A fun day!

We received a lovely "Thank You" card from the staff at the botanical gardens saying they appreciated our presence and how much we accomplished as a community.

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and a special thank you  
to this month's contributors

This photo was provided by Linda Tesar Amimoto who is a Sanctuary volunteer as well as a volunteer at the botanical gardens. It shows whistles being made from hollowed out Kamani nuts with holes drilled. Then, add a piece of cordage twisted from the inner bark of the Houston tree and spin the finished whistle for the sound.



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## Management Plan Review Update

by Malia Chow, Superintendent

Aloha Volunteers. This is an update for you about our sanctuary management plan review.

As a quick recap, the plan is a congressionally mandated process where each sanctuary site periodically reviews their progress towards meeting their management objectives. In 2010, our sanctuary made an extensive effort to gather public input and guidance. Staff spent time characterizing priority issues from that process, and we also received over 150 recommended actions from our community-based Sanctuary Advisor Council.

### The results:

- A draft plan is due for release this fall.
- The public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft proposal and let us know if we “got it right.”
- As volunteers, please feel free to share this news and these key features with visitors, friends and acquaintances.

The most significant proposal that came out of the process is support for the sanctuary to consider shifting from single species management (humpback whales) to an [ecosystem based management](#) approach.

- This means the protection of species, habitats, and water quality.
- It also involves full consideration of the human communities that are a part of this ecosystem here in Hawai'i.

The plan calls for a new structure that includes the natural system, the human system, and the cultural context of this special place. Our [four principle themes](#) will be:

- Implementing Ecosystem Protection
- Perpetuating Cultural Heritage
- Transitioning Towards Sustainability
- Ensuring Management Effectiveness

Expanding to a broader ecosystem focus creates a need for increased protections in key management areas that reflect an incremental move towards ecosystem management. These [key management areas](#) are:

- Resource Conservation
- Water Quality
- Enforcement
- Habitat Protection

Finally, we are evaluating our current [boundaries](#) and proposals to make incremental changes.

- We are responding to specific requests made by communities across the State to adjust our boundaries.
- There are unique areas around the Hawaiian Islands that warrant more protection or different types of management approaches.

We wanted you to know. Thanks for sharing this news with others. More details will follow once the plan is released to the public. We do not have news about the proposed sanctuary name change, yet.



# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## **PIR and NMSF Donate New Viewscope —Dedicated to our Volunteers!**

Story and photo by Nancy Daschbach



The Pacific Islands Regional office and the Hawaii National Marine Sanctuary Foundation collaborated and purchased a new binocular viewscope for that back lanai of the Visitor Center. The new viewscope, almost identical to the old ones we had, has the addition of a step so that vertically challenged adults and children can “step up” and look for whales.

Best part of the viewscope is the dedication plaque:  
*Dedicated to the volunteers who support the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Made possible by the Hawaii National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.*

This new scope replaces the original one that was purchased more than 15 years ago.

Visitors who come to the site expect to see whales, and having a new viewscope that works properly is long overdue. Be sure to stop by and look at your new, blue scope!

## **PIR Provides New Items for Visitor Center**

Story and photo by Nancy Daschbach

The Pacific Islands Regional office purchased four large “liquid tiles” that have been placed on the floor around the kids’ area in the Visitor Center. The tiles have a unique property: when they are pressed, the dark blue color of the tiles changes to a lighter blue (think kids jumping on them). The liquid medium provides a dynamic, changing surface that is captivating.

The tiles were specially made, and are similar to ones in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Mokupāpa Discovery Center in Hilo. According to Ka`au, the tiles are sturdier than the ones in Hilo, so they should hold up well to heavy traffic. They brighten up the kids’ activity area, and some of our own “kids” (Ka`au Abraham and Robyn Walters) had fun playing on them when we laid them in the Visitor Center.



Ka`au playing on the tiles in the Visitor Center

## **Albino Humpback Whale off the Coast of Australia**

A rare, all white humpback whale was observed last month off the coast of Australia during his migration. First sighted in 1991, this is fourth time in 18 years that Migaloo (meaning “white fella” in the Mayi-Katuna language) has been seen off of New South Wales. This albino whale is believed to be one of only two or three in the world.

Visit the following link to see videos of this beautiful and unusual whale.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/06/19/rare-white-humpback-whale/10863725/>

For photographs of Migaloo breaching, search with “Migaloo images” in your browser.



# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani, Voyaging Canoe

By Jeep Dunning

It was a very hot, sunny day at Mala Boat Ramp in Lahaina on Friday, July 11 where thousands of people gathered for the historic launching of the 62 foot, double hull Hawaiian voyaging canoe, Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani. Several HIHWNMS volunteers wearing their blue "uniform" shirts carpooled with Ka'au Abraham to Lahaina to participate in the celebration which drew state and county officials, including Mayor Alan Arakawa. Kimokeo Kapahulelua, president of the Hui o Wa'a Kaulua introduced the captain of the canoe, Tim Gilliom and all of his crew. An honored guest of the event was Nainoa Thompson, president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Blessings, chants and prayers for the vessel were followed by a pico ceremony (birthing ceremony). A drum beat out a cadence and no photos were allowed as the ti leaf lei, representing the umbilical cord, was stretched, cut and the canoe was "born." When Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani launched into the harbor, it was greeted by large numbers of canoes representing the many canoe clubs from all over Maui and celebrated by huge cheers from the crowd.

The celebration continued at Kamehameha Iki Park where a huge buffet was laid out serving an amazing selection of luau style food. Sanctuary volunteers, Flo Bahr, Raul Paiz, Robyn Walters, Larry Boysen, Jeep Dunning and Ka'au Abraham were joined by Mike and Janet Rineer who had paddled earlier with the Maui Canoe Club at the launch of the Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani. The voyaging canoe had been towed to grace our view of the ocean from the park as the group was entertained by local dancers and musicians while we enjoyed our delicious meals.



Photo by Diane Bryant.



Photo by Flo Bahr.



Photo by Jeep Dunning.

# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## The Hawaiian Monk Seal

By Meilani Nelson



*Photo by Nicole Davis.*

Did you know that the Hawaiian monk seal is the official state mammal of Hawaii and can only be found in two places; the mostly uninhabited northwestern Hawaiian Islands, with a small breeding population inhabiting the main Hawaiian Islands?

This is a big deal! Not only are they native to our islands but they cannot be found anywhere else on earth. Yet despite our distance from other islands and continents the Hawaiian monk seal is still an endangered animal and its biggest threat is us.

The Hawaiian monk seal evolved in an area without people or other land predators. Therefore, it did not learn to fear people and is easily approachable and disturbed. Disturbing Hawaiian monk seals not only changes their behavior but it also introduces them to human waste and disease and it is against the law.

According to NOAA, the current population of Hawaiian monk seals is about 1,100 and the threat of extinction is the real deal!

### Fast Facts

#### *Length:*

Up to 6-7 feet in length

#### *Weight:*

Up to 400-600 pounds

#### *Lifespan:*

Up to 25-30 years.



*Photo by John Klavitter,  
courtesy of  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

### One Person Can Make a Difference

Please give seals space to rest, molt, give birth and care for their pups.

Keep a distance of at least 150 feet from all seals in areas where seals have not yet been roped off.

Avoid approaching or playing with these seals.

Feeding seals is illegal.

Keep your dog on a leash at all times.

Please report all seal sightings and human-seal interactions by calling 1-808-292-2372.

Please report all entangled or injured seals (do not try to release by yourself) by calling 1-888-256-9840.



*Photo courtesy of NOAA,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*



# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## Students Fishpond Presentation

Several Sanctuary volunteers enjoyed an excellent presentation on July 8 outlining the results of investigative studies done at the Ko'ie'ie Fishpond. This fishpond is located just behind the Kihei Sanctuary building. The studies were done by students from the University of Hawaii, Maui, Upward Bound program. These students studied historical data as well as data they collected over the weeks prior to preparing this presentation.



It was their challenge to determine if it would be ecologically beneficial to dredge the fishpond. They worked in teams and took different measurements in the fishpond including water circulation, depth, wildlife present and comments from community members regarding their knowledge and willingness to help in fishpond projects.

Considering the data, old and new, they determined that it would be beneficial to dredge but there were obstacles to consider. These were manpower, cost, and a ruling that all work in fishponds must be done in the traditional way without modern machinery.

The presentations were well done and the students showed that they learned a great deal from their endeavor and were able to pass that on to the audience. We learned a lot of good information and wish good luck to these ambitious teens and thank them for their presentation.

## A Hui Hou, Rod

On July 22 we had a nice luncheon at the Sanctuary to honor Rod Quigley who is leaving the island for a while. Rod has been working at the Sanctuary and has been helpful to so many of us doing all kinds of jobs around the Kihei site for 5 years. Prior to that he was a volunteer. He also remained committed to volunteering for the turtle response program. He is headed to the mainland for some treatments and he should be back joining us before we know it. He will be sorely missed while he is away.

As a small token of our appreciation, Rod was gifted a beautiful picture of a mother whale and calf taken by Ed Lyman.



*Photo by Renee Lackey.*

Rod Quigley, Flo Bahr, Sheila Ople and Eden Zang.



*Photo by Allen Tom.*

Marv and Michele Paularina, Ed Lyman and Rod Quigley.

# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary  
726 South Kihei Road,  
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

## West Maui

*Whalers Village Shopping Center  
Whalers Museum  
2435 Ka'anapali Pkwy  
Lahaina, HI 96761 (661-4567)* *Old Lahaina Courthouse  
Banyan Tree Park  
Wharf Street  
Lahaina, 96761 (661-3262)*

## August 2014

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

### \*VOLUNTEER MEETING

Our volunteer Tommy Cutt, Chief Conservation Officer, Loggerhead Marine Life Center, Florida, will give a talk about his work with turtles in Florida, at the Kihei Site . August 20 at 6:00 PM

1

2

3  
Blue`Aina

4  
MOC Outreach

5  
Council Mtg  
9:30 AM Kihei  
45 Ton Whale Talk  
11 AM  
Kihei

6  
Mana Kai  
Outreach

7  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

8

9

10

11  
MOC Outreach

12  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

13  
Mana Kai  
Outreach

14  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

15

16

17

18  
MOC Outreach

19  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

20 Volunteer Mtg  
Presentation on:  
Sea Turtles of  
Florida 6PM\*

Mana Kai  
Outreach

21  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

22

23

24

25  
MOC Outreach

26  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

27  
Mana Kai  
Outreach

28  
45 Ton Whale  
Talk 11 AM  
Kihei

29

30

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